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IRAQI AGGRESSION AND THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 5 June 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Press Communiqué issued on 3 June 1991 by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council concerning the situation in the region following the Gulf war.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 153, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nassir Abdelaziz AL-NASSER
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Press Communiqué issued on 3 June 1991 by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its thirty-ninth session, held at Khubar, Saudi Arabia, on 2 and 3 June 1991

The Ministerial Council held its thirty-ninth session on 2 and 3 June 1991, at Khubar, Saudi Arabia, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Mubarak Bin Ali al-Khatir, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, and with all members in attendance:

His Excellency Mr. Rashid Bin Abdullah al-Nuaimi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates;

His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain;

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia;

His Excellency Mr. Yousef Bin Alwai Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Oman;

His Excellency Sheikh Salem al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait.

The Ministerial Council has reviewed recent developments in the region and the situation in the region in the light of the progressive implementation of the Security Council resolutions relating to the aggression of the Iraqi regime against the State of Kuwait. It reaffirms the need for the full implementation of resolutions enforcing the international rule of law without delay or procrastination.

The Council welcomes, in this connection, the adoption of Security Council resolution 692 (1991) establishing a Compensation Fund and a Commission to administer the Fund in accordance with Security Council resolutions 674 (1990), 686 (1991) and 687 (1991), which remind Iraq that under international law it is liable for any direct loss or damage, including damage to the environment, the depletion of natural resources and damage suffered by third States and their nationals and corporations, as a result of the illegal invasion and occupation of Kuwait by Iraq.

The Council further expresses its satisfaction at the establishment of a demilitarized zone on the boundaries between Kuwait and Iraq and the deployment of a United Nations observer force. It welcomes the formation of the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission in implementation of Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

While expressing its satisfaction at the maintenance of a firm international stance on the full and speedy implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, the Ministerial Council registers its great indignation and concern at the procrastination of the Iraqi authorities in implementing those resolutions relating to the release of Kuwaiti nationals and nationals of other countries detained in Iraq and at the disregard evinced by the Iraqi authorities for international efforts to secure the release of such prisoners and detainees. The Ministerial Council urges the Security Council to redouble the political pressures applied in order to compel the Iraqi regime to implement in full all of the United Nations resolutions relating to this humanitarian issue and ensure the return of detainees and hostages without delay, in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council and the terms of the cease-fire.

The Council condemns the statements recently made by the Vice-President of the Iraqi regime, which betray aggressive and expansionist intentions that are incompatible with Iraq's obligations under the terms of the Security Council resolutions which led to the cease-fire. The Ministerial Council deplores the issuing of such statements, and it reaffirms the decisions taken by the Supreme Council at its past session in light of the fact that the security of the GCC States is an integral whole.

While pursuing consultations on relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and while reaffirming its concern for the creation of a joint basis for constructive cooperation between the Gulf Cooperation Council and Iran, the Council looks forward to the inception of an era of cooperation that will serve the common interests of their peoples and advance the means of promoting prosperity and stability in the region.

The Council has followed with great interest the international efforts aimed at the establishment of a permanent peace and overall stability in the Arab region. Proceeding from a firm conviction and from its well-known and established policy of affirming all that may be conducive to the achievement of security and stability for the States of the Middle East region and to enabling them to continue to advance the growth, prosperity and development of their peoples, the Council welcomes the initiative of United States President George Bush aimed at the elimination of weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East region.

The Council expresses its full support for the peace efforts being made by the United States of America with a view to devising a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the question of Palestine on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). The Council once again expresses its support for the proposal to convene an early peace conference, when the situation is ripe, to endeavour to bring an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and achieve a just and comprehensive solution that will restore to the people of Palestine its legitimate rights in light of the attitudes implicit in the new international order based on cooperation and the validation of international legitimacy. In its concern to

support the peace process and promote the success of the efforts currently being made to bring an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and find a just solution to the Palestine issue, the Council reaffirms that the GCC is, if invited, prepared to participate as an observer in whatever peace conference it is decided to convene, represented by its Secretary-General.

The Council notes with great concern the deterioration in security, health and living conditions in the occupied Arab territories with the continued Israeli occupation. The Council condemns the escalation of the repressive and violent practices in which the occupation authorities engage against civilians and the rising number of Palestinians killed, wounded and detained. The Council calls upon the international community to adopt a resolute stand in order to prevent the settlement policy being pursued by Israel in the occupied Arab territories from being maintained.

The Ministerial Council is following with great satisfaction the positive developments taking place in Lebanon and the achievements of the Lebanese Government in extending its authority over Lebanese territory. It reaffirms the support of the GCC States for the Taif Agreement, and it calls for the full and unconditional implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon without procrastination or delay. It recalls the resolution of the Arab Summit Conference on the establishment of a fund in support of Lebanon, and it urges the international community to contribute to it.

The Council welcomes the signing of the Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation and Coordination between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Lebanese Republic, since it will contribute to the development of relations between the two fraternal countries in such a way as to ensure the achievement of the objectives and aspirations of their peoples for stability and development. It further expresses the hope that this historic step towards securing the distinctive relations between the two countries will meet their concern for concerted action, cooperation and the coordination of efforts for the achievement of their common goals.

The Council is following with great concern the events taking place in Somalia. It calls upon all national forces to reach agreement on a national solution that will ensure the preservation of the unity and integrity of Somalia. The Council further hopes that security and stability will prevail in the entire area of the Horn of Africa.

The Ministerial Council has taken note of the results produced by the meetings of the Committee on Financial and Economic Cooperation and the Committee of Under-Secretaries at Ministeries of Finance in the GCC States held in order to give effect to the decision of the Supreme Council on expediting the implementation of the Economic Agreement with a view to rendering it of greater benefit to citizens of the GCC countries. The Council has stressed the need for the relevant committees to accomplish this task in an expeditious manner.

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the historic decision of Their Majesties and Their Highnesses to sign the Agreement establishing the Gulf Cooperation Council, of 25 May 1981, the Ministerial Council extends its most sincere congratulations to Their Majesties and Their Highnesses, the leaders of the GCC States, and it expresses the hope that the course adopted will realize the aspirations of citizens and all of the objectives embodied in the Statute in such a way as to affirm the cultural and civilizing contribution of the region to all mankind.